

## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION III 1650 Arch Street

## Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SEP 2 2014

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your August 12, 2014 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy concerning the status of the ongoing negotiations related to the former Bethlehem Steel and RG Steel property in Baltimore County, Maryland, referred to locally as Sparrows Point.

EPA has been in regular communication with the state, the current owner, and the prospective purchaser since May, when Sparrows Point Terminal LLC (SPT) first approached EPA about a prospective purchaser agreement (PPA), and Maryland about a parallel state order. EPA met with SPT last week to discuss the issues, and on August 31, 2014 reached an agreement in principal on the terms of a PPA.

EPA is committed to bring economic vitality back to the area, while fulfilling our mission of protecting public health and the environment. If you have any questions, please to not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Mrs. Linda Miller, EPA's Maryland Liaison, at 215-814-2068.

Sincerely,

Shawn M. Garvin

Regional Administrator